



The National Infertility Organization since 1974

Member of the International Federation of Infertility Patient Associations

Infertility: Education Advocacy Support

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April 27, 1998

The Honorable Thomas A. Daschle
United States Senate
Senate Hart Office Building, Room 509
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Daschle:

RESOLVE, The National Infertility Association, thanks you for sponsoring The Patients' Bill of Rights Act (S. 1890/H.R. 3605). Legislation that guarantees consumer protections in managed care is extremely important to the more than 6 million people who experience the disease of infertility.

RESOLVE is a national nonprofit organization that provides education, advocacy and support to those experiencing infertility. Many couples affected by this disease undergo medical treatments in their attempts to build a family. Treatments, ranging from medications to in vitro fertilization, have allowed millions of people to fulfill their dreams of having a child. Medical research and new technology have opened up new possibilities and raised hopes for many who experience the life crisis of infertility.

Despite the availability of effective treatments, many couples are not able to access them because often insurance companies do not cover infertility treatments. Couples with coverage may face many obstacles and need the protections that are included in the Bill of Rights. For example, many patients are denied care without being given a basis for the decision. An external appeal process for instances in which care is denied, as the Bill of Rights requires, would be an avenue by which these couples could contest such denials. A second example is the Bill of Rights' provision that would prohibit plans from imposing arbitrary limits on how covered services are provided, a problem which many of those seeking to undergo infertility treatments face.

RESOLVE is grateful for the leadership that you have displayed in cosponsoring this important legislative initiative. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you as you seek to gain further support from your colleagues and from the public.

Sincerely,

Diane D. Aronson

Executive Director, RESOLVE